

ABSTRACT

There is disclosed a method and apparatus for producing an optical fiber which is capable of producing the optical fiber having a high reliability by directly wiping the surface of the optical fiber with cleaning means for positively removing foreign materials adhered to or precipitated on the surface of the optical fiber and in which its facility is simple in structure and easy to maintain it. A cleaning member (11) is disposed on an optical fiber moving path. The surface of moving optical fiber (20) is cleaned by bringing the optical fiber (20) into a physical contact with the cleaning member (11). The cleaning member (11) can be formed of a porous or mesh member. The mesh member is formed of fiber sheets which are formed by knitting fiber threads. A plurality of the fiber sheets are laminated to provide a given lamination thickness for the cleaning length of the optical fiber (20). The optical fiber is passed through the cleaning member (11) prior to detection of uneven spots on the optical fiber or coloring of the optical fiber (20).